HAZARDOUS WASTE INVESTIGATION HW/EF 07-58

Inspector: Tom Downey Date: 2/22/82

Location: Bayonne Barrel and Drum Co.

St: 154 Raymond Boulevard

Town: Newark

County: Essex

Lot: 3 Block:5002

Origin of Complaint:

Complaint: Investigate housekeeping, disposal practices and possible illegal incinerator.

Findings:

On 12/2/81, at 1200 hours, I met on-site with Lenny Cerasia, plant foreman for Bayonne Barrel and Drum. I had intended to conduct a RCRA compliance inspection in addition to the investigation, however, George Shaneen, the company official in charge of environmental affairs, was not in.

As we toured the twenty acre site, Mr. Cerasia explained that Bayonne Barrel takes in dirty and damaged drums and cleans and reconditions them. Closed head drums are cleaned using chains and a caustic solution. The spent solution drains into a 5,000 gallon holding/settling tank and is then pumped into a 60,000 gallong holding/settling tank. The liquid is decanted to the sewer under permit by the Passaic Valley Sewage Commission (PVSC). Open head drums are placed on a conveyor belt and moved through an incinerator which burns the residue out of the inside. This residue falls to the ground where it is collected in two subsurface holding/settling tanks. Residue mixes with conveyor belt cooling water. Cooling water drains down through residue and ties into the same settling tank system mentioned above. Accumulated residue or incinerator ash is then shoveled out and placed in a dump trailer. This material is then manifested out for disposal at S & W in Kearny.

I examined manifests and found that 44 of the last 48 shipments went to S & W with the remaining four going to Grows. Bayonne generates about 40,000 lbs of incinerator ash and sludge a month. This amount includes the sludge that settles out in the four referenced tanks. Proper shipping names on manifest were not descriptive enough and it could not be determined which material came from which tank. S & W fills out and supplies manifests for Bayonne. In a conversation a few weeks later with Brad Gradner, Envl. Coordinator for S & W, it was explained that manifests in the future would be more descriptive.

Further investigation outside was done in the drum unloading area. This area was the site of a few minor spills. I checked a few drums to make sure they were empty. Mr. Cerasia explained that employees are instructed not to accept any drums which have more than one inch of residue in them. A drum crusher in this area revealed what appeared to be sludge and residue accumulation underneath.

I concluded my investigation by touring the entire twenty areas of the site. The remaining section of the site was used for empty drum storage. I did not see

any evidence of land disruption which might indicate some thpe of disposal on-site.

1/27/82 Investigation

At 10:30 hrs., I returned to Bayonne Barrel and Drum to condut a RCRA compliance inspection. I was accompaned by EPA attorney Jodi Alper. During the inspection it was noted that the 5,000 gallon tank was overflowing to a storm sewer. According to George Shaneen, company representative, pumps and lines from 5,000 gallon tank to 60,000 gallon holding tank were frozen, thus liquid was backing up in settling tank Besides overflow from the settling tank there were two breaks in the line leading into the settling tank (see map). Liquid from these breaks was flowing across pavement and into storm sewer. There was no means to stop flow into the 5,000 gallon tank with the exception of halting production. (Only the incinerator operation was working.) Samples TD063 from the 5,000 tank, TD064, from break in line nearest the 5,000 gallon tank, TD065, break in line near boiler building and TD066 from flow of liquid entering storm sere, were taken. Phots 1-8 taken of flow and source.

We then met with the owner, Frank Langello and discussed the situation. Mr. Langello was not all that cooperative. He had no intention of stopping production to halt flow. He stated that flow would cease when production stopped at 1730 hours. He did instruct an employee to start charcoal fires in buckets in pump house and under frozen lines and to keep them burning all night. He was not sure if sewer in question led to PVSC or river. (I contacted Tom Mack of PVCS but he could not tell either.) Mr. Langello said that he would attempt to free pumps and lines early the next day but he still intended to operate production whether lines were free or not. Mr. Langello said that discharge had been going on for the past 2-3 days, however, an unidentified employee stated that discharge had been going on for two weeks. Discharge to sewer was estimated at 5-10 gallons per minute.

At 1530 hours, I notified the Division of Hazardou Management (DHM) and spoke with Tony Catanese and again at 1700 hours and spoke with Joe Goliszewski. It was agreed that I would stay on-site and monitor flow until it decreased. DHM would then send someone to the site first thing Thursday morning, 1/28/82. Jody Alper suggested that the EPA Emergency Response unit be notified, however, I assured her that the DEP could handle it.

At 1945 hours I noted that flow had decreased to about 2-4 gallons per minute. No flow was noted from settling tank or break nearest tank. Flow from break near boiler building now appeared to be clearer than before. At 2000 hours, I left the site.

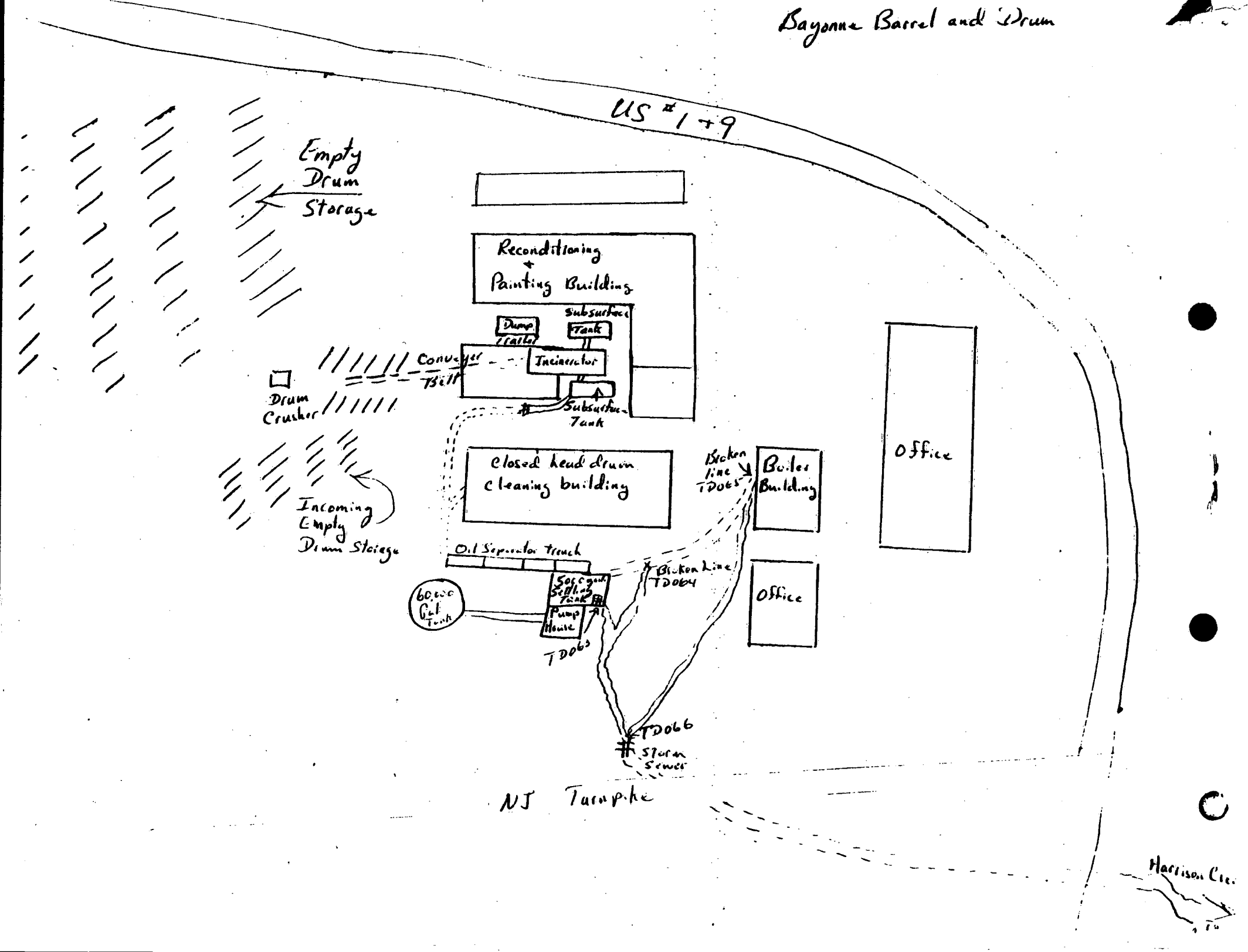
The next morning at 0900 hours, I contacted Joe Goliszwski. Mr. Goliszwski told me that Chris Schiller of Division of Water Resources (DWR) had been notified the previous evening and that they would respond this morning. I then contacted Mr. Schiller's office and left a message for him to contact me. One hour later, I called again and spoke with Mr. Schiller who informed me that his office was not responding since DHM was handling the case. I explained that they were not handling the case and he told me he would look into this mix up. A short time later, I received a call from Jodi Alper who informed me that she had spoke with Mr. Schiller and DWR would respond. I understand that they had someone on-site about 1330 hours that day. Had I known the previous evening that no one from the DEP was going to respond until the next afternoon I would have gone back up myself the following morning.

In a conversation earlier that day with Newark City Engineer Robert Bienz, I was told that the storm sewer in question flows from Bayonne Barrel and Drum property under the NJ Turnpike and into Harrison Creek which inturn flows into the Passaic River.

777-8820

Housekeeping on-site was generally poor, especially around the incinerator area, drum crusher and settling tanks. Most of the site was covered with snow during my second inspection but I did notice a few areas of what appeared to be soil contamination.

cc: Jody Alper, EPA
Tony Catanese, DHM
Chris Schiller, DWR


Bayonne Barrel and Drum
US #1+9
Empty Drum Storage
Reconditioning + Painting Building
Subsurface Tank
Dump Trailer
Incinerator
Conveyor Belt
Subsurface Tank
Drum Crusher
Closed head drum cleaning building
Broken line TD065
Boiler Building
Office
Incoming Empty Drum Storage
Oil Separator Trench
Broken Line TD064
Sorbent Settling Tank
Pump House
60,000 Gal Tank
TD063
Office
TD066
Storm Sewer
NJ Turnpike
Harrison Cre